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JHB/JB/29957
12th March 1990

Attention: Beverly A. Monroe

RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP.
LAW DEPT. PATENT SECTION
MAR 26 1990
DOCK
NOTED

Dear Beverly,

European Patent Application No. 88 310843.3
Your Ref: PM 1268
Our File: 29957

I enclose the official search report just received in this case, together with copies of the cited documents.

The Luxembourg specification is cited as particularly relevant to a number of the claims and also as relevant to certain other claims when taken in combination, presumably with the cited French reference. The Luxembourg specification has no known equivalents and is in German. If you need a translation, please let me know. The French reference has both British and U.S. versions, and I should be happy to get one of them for you if you do not have it already.

The two European specifications are cited as background only, but the German reference (again no other version identified) is a specification with an earlier priority date but not published until after the filing date of this application. It therefore has to be considered under the "whole contents" rule but only to the extent of the German designation in the present application. If any amendment of the claims is necessitated by this German reference, then such an amendment should only apply to the German designation and a separate set of claims be filed for that country alone. It is possible, however, that the position of this reference in the search report should be taken to mean that it too is cited as background only.

If amendment has been made in the U.S.A., for example to deal with the same or similar references, you may wish to expedite prosecution of the European application by filing similarly amended claims here. If so, it

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would be convenient to do so at the time of paying the examination fee, which will become due six months after the publication of this search report.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Bass

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